

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0015], with the following paragraph:

These and/or other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the preferred embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 schematically shows an optical arrangement of a conventional optical pickup apparatus;

FIGS. 2 and 3 schematically show an optical arrangement of an optical pickup apparatus according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view showing a mechanical arrangement of a main part of the optical pickup apparatus shown in FIG. 2;

FIGS. 5 and 6 schematically show an optical arrangement of a portion of an optical pickup apparatus according to a second embodiment of the present invention; and

FIGS. 7 and 8 schematically show an optical arrangement of a portion of an optical pickup apparatus according to a third embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 schematically shows an optical arrangement of a portion of an optical pickup apparatus according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 10 schematically shows an optical arrangement of a portion of an optical pickup apparatus according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 11 schematically shows an optical arrangement of a portion of an optical pickup apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0045], with the following paragraph:

In an optical pickup apparatus according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 9, a grating 152, a wavelength plate 153, and an optical output compensating lens 155 are disposed in front of a light source 31, and the grating 152 and the wavelength plate 153 are formed in one body. In an optical pickup apparatus according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 10, a grating 51c, a wavelength plate 53, and an optical output compensating lens 55 are disposed in front of a light source 31. The grating 51c and the wavelength plate 53 are formed in one body and bonded to the optical output compensating lens

55 in Fig. 10. In an optical pickup apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 11, a grating 251c is formed on a surface of an optical output compensating lens 255, so that the grating 251c and the optical output compensating lens 255 are formed in one body. Further, although it is not shown in the present invention, the grating 51 (refer to FIG. 2) is disposed separately and the wavelength plate 53 and the optical output compensating lens 55 may be formed in one body.